



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 257**

*January Session, 2001*

Substitute Senate Bill No. 141

*Senate, April 12, 2001*

The Committee on Transportation reported through SEN. CIOTTO of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING MAIL-IN VOTER REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section,  
4 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994,  
5 shall include an application for the admission of an elector with each  
6 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a  
7 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under  
8 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form  
9 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such  
10 application form for the admission of an elector (1) shall be subject to  
11 the approval of the Secretary of the State, (2) shall not include any  
12 provisions for the witnessing of the application, and (3) shall contain a  
13 statement that (A) specifies each eligibility requirement, (B) contains

14 an attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement, and (C)  
15 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury. On  
16 and after January 1, 1994, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall  
17 accept in person any such completed application for admission. The  
18 applicant shall state on such form, under penalty of perjury, [his] the  
19 applicant's name, bona fide residence address, date of birth, whether  
20 [he] the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment, if any,  
21 prior voting address, if registered previously, and that [his] the  
22 applicant's privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of  
23 conviction of a felony. No Social Security number on any such  
24 application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to January  
25 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency.  
26 The commissioner shall indicate on each such form the date of receipt  
27 of such application to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to  
28 vote in an election if it is received by the Commissioner of Motor  
29 Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election. The  
30 commissioner shall give the applicant an application receipt, on a form  
31 approved by the Secretary of the State and on which the commissioner  
32 shall record the date that the commissioner received the application,  
33 and forthwith transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the  
34 applicant's town of residence. If a registration application is accepted  
35 within five days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular  
36 election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters  
37 of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five days  
38 after the date of acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f)  
39 and (g) of section 9-23g, as amended by this act, which are not  
40 inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-  
41 31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made  
42 under this section. The commissioner is not an admitting official and  
43 may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, electoral  
44 privileges of persons convicted of a felony. Not later than January 15,  
45 1993, the commissioner and secretary shall submit a report to the  
46 General Assembly concerning the status of the implementation of the

47 provisions of this subsection, including an estimate of the cost of such  
48 implementation.

49 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 9-23g of the general statutes is  
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

51 (b) The Secretary of the State shall prescribe, and provide to  
52 registrars of voters, town clerks and voter registration agencies, as  
53 defined in section 9-23n, as amended by this act, application forms and  
54 other materials necessary to complete such application and admission  
55 process. The Secretary of the State, registrars of voters and town clerks  
56 shall provide a reasonable number of such forms and materials to any  
57 elector who requests such forms and materials. The secretary shall  
58 also, in the course of [his] the secretary's elections duties, prepare  
59 instructions and related materials describing procedures for such  
60 application and admission process and shall provide the materials to  
61 registrars of voters and town clerks. The application shall contain the  
62 information required under section 9-23h, as amended by this act. All  
63 statements of the applicant shall be made under the penalties of  
64 perjury. The application for admission as an elector shall include a  
65 statement that (1) specifies each eligibility requirement, (2) contains an  
66 attestation that the application meets each such requirement, and (3)  
67 requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury.  
68 Nothing in this section or section 9-23h, as amended by this act, shall  
69 require that the application be executed in the state. An applicant who  
70 is unable to write may cause [his] the applicant's name to be signed on  
71 the application form by an authorized agent who shall, in the space  
72 provided for the signature, write the name of the applicant followed  
73 by the word "by" and [his] the agent's own signature. The completed  
74 application may be mailed or returned in person to the office of the  
75 registrars of voters or the office of the town clerk of the applicant's  
76 town of residence or a voter registration agency. If the applicant  
77 entrusts [his] the applicant's application to another person or to such a  
78 voter registration agency for mailing or return to the registrars of

79 voters, such person or agency shall immediately mail or return the  
80 application. Any such voter registration agency shall also give the  
81 applicant an application receipt, on which the agency shall record the  
82 date that the agency received the application. The town clerk shall  
83 promptly forward any application which [he] the town clerk receives  
84 to the registrars of voters. Such application form shall be provided by  
85 or authorized by the Secretary of the State.

86 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 9-23g of the general statutes is  
87 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

88 (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the  
89 privileges of an elector for any applicant for admission under this  
90 section and section 9-23h, as amended by this act, shall attach  
91 immediately upon approval by the registrar, and the registrars shall  
92 enter the name of the elector on the registry list.

93 (2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, if a  
94 mailed application is postmarked, or if a delivered application is  
95 received in the office of the registrars of voters, after the fourteenth day  
96 before an election or after the fifth day before a primary, the privileges  
97 of an elector shall not attach until the day after such election or  
98 primary, as the case may be.

99 (3) If an application is received after the fourteenth day before an  
100 election or after the fifth day before a primary by the Commissioner of  
101 Motor Vehicles or by a voter registration agency, the privileges of an  
102 elector shall not attach until the day after the election or primary, as  
103 the case may be, or on the day the registrar approves it, whichever is  
104 later.

105 (4) If on the day of an election or primary, the name of an applicant  
106 does not appear on the official check list, such applicant may present  
107 to the moderator at the polls either a notice of acceptance received  
108 through the mail [to the moderator at the polls, after which] or an

109 application receipt that was previously provided to the applicant  
110 pursuant to section 9-19e, subsection (b) of section 9-19h, as amended  
111 by this act, subsection (b) of this section, as amended by this act, or  
112 section 9-23n, as amended by this act. If an applicant presents said  
113 notice or receipt, and either the registrars of voters find the original  
114 application or the applicant submits a new application at the polls, the  
115 registrar, or assistant registrar [,] upon notice to and approval by the  
116 registrar, shall add such person's name and address to the official  
117 check list on such day and the person shall be allowed to vote if  
118 otherwise eligible to vote and the person presents to the checkers at the  
119 polling place a preprinted form of identification pursuant to  
120 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 9-261.

121 Sec. 4. Section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
122 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

123 (a) As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means (1)  
124 public assistance offices, (2) all offices in the state that provide  
125 state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to  
126 persons with disabilities, (3) libraries that are open to the public, and  
127 (4) such other appropriate offices as the Secretary of the State shall  
128 designate in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of  
129 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

130 (b) Voter registration agencies shall (1) distribute mail voter  
131 registration application forms, (2) assist applicants for such assistance  
132 or services in completing voter registration application forms, except  
133 for applicants who refuse such assistance, [and] (3) accept completed  
134 voter registration application forms and [forthwith transmit such  
135 forms] give each applicant an application receipt, on which the agency  
136 shall record the date that the agency received the application, and (4)  
137 immediately transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of  
138 the town of voting residence of the applicants. If a registration  
139 application is accepted within five days before the last day for

140 registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be  
141 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence  
142 of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance.  
143 The voter registration agency shall indicate on the completed mail  
144 voter registration application form, without indicating the identity of  
145 the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency,  
146 to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election  
147 if it is received by the registration agency by the last day for  
148 registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily  
149 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides  
150 services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency  
151 shall provide such voter registration services at the person's home. The  
152 procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g, as  
153 amended by this act, that are not inconsistent with the National Voter  
154 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time,  
155 shall apply to applications made under this section. Officials and  
156 employees of such voter registration agencies are not admitting  
157 officials, as defined in section 9-17a, and may not restore, under the  
158 provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of  
159 a felony.

160 Sec. 5. Section 9-23h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
161 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

162 The application provided for in section 9-23g, as amended by this  
163 act, shall provide spaces for the following information for each  
164 applicant: (1) Name, (2) bona fide residence, including street number,  
165 street address, apartment number if applicable, town and zip code, (3)  
166 telephone number, (4) date of birth, (5) whether the applicant is  
167 registered as an elector in any other town in the state of Connecticut or  
168 in any other state, and if so, the applicant's last previous voting  
169 residence, (6) whether [he] the applicant is a United States citizen, (7)  
170 party affiliation, if any, and (8) the applicant's signature and date of  
171 signature. The spaces for the applicant's telephone number and party

172 affiliation shall indicate that such information does not have to be  
173 provided. No Social Security number on any such form filed prior to  
174 January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental  
175 agency. The application shall contain a notice that if the applicant does  
176 not receive a notice of acceptance or rejection of the application from  
177 the office of the registrars of voters for the municipality in which the  
178 applicant resides, the applicant should contact said office. The  
179 application shall also contain any other information, questions or  
180 instructions prescribed by the Secretary of the State.

181       Sec. 6. This act shall take effect January 1, 2002.

**GAE**       **JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST. C/R**                               **TRA**  
**TRA**       **JOINT FAVORABLE**

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

---

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Potential Minimal Cost

**Affected Agencies:** Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of the Secretary of the State, Various State Agencies

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation****State Impact:**

This legislation requires the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue a receipt, on a form approved by the Secretary of State, to persons submitting an application to vote. (The DMV currently forwards the voter registration cards to local registrars of voters, but does not issue a receipt). Assuming voter registration to stabilize at the current 17,000 annually, the DMV estimates that they would have to hire part-time help in order not to increase customer wait time. The average hourly rate is \$19.88 for a total Personal Services cost of \$28,150 (excluding fringe benefit costs of approximately \$11,260 based on hours of employment). The DMV estimates it would cost them an additional \$15,000 to design, print and distribute the new form.

The law designates a variety of agencies such as the Department of Social Services, the Department of Labor, and the State Library as voter registration agencies. It is anticipated that these agencies may incur minimal, absorbable costs in issuing a receipt when accepting a voter



registration application.

There is no cost to the Office of the Secretary of the State to approve a receipt form.

***Municipal Impact:***

The law designates libraries open to the public as voter registration agencies. It is anticipated that these municipal public libraries may incur minimal, absorbable costs in issuing a receipt when accepting a voter registration application.

---

**OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

sSB 141

***AN ACT CONCERNING MAIL-IN VOTER REGISTRATION PROCEDURES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles and state voter registration agencies to give an applicant for voter registration at the department or agency a dated receipt when they accept the application. It allows a person appearing at a polling place whose name is not on the voter registry list to vote if:

1. he presents the receipt,
2. the town's registrars of voters find the original application or the applicant submits a new one that a registrar approves, and
3. the person submits proper identification.

The voter must show his Social Security card or other preprinted form of identification that has his name and signature or photograph. He cannot simply sign the statement attesting to his identification; other voters with no identification can do this under existing law.

The bill requires the application to include notification that if an applicant does not receive a notice of acceptance or rejection from his local registrars of voters, he should contact their office.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002

**BACKGROUND*****Voter Registration Agencies***

The law designates the following public agency offices as voter

registration agencies: offices that provide public assistance such as Food Stamps and Medicaid, all offices that provide state-funded programs primarily providing services to people with disabilities, libraries open to the public, and other appropriate offices designated by the secretary of the state. Offices that provide services to people with disabilities can include agencies providing vocational rehabilitation, job training, education counseling, or independent living services. A state-funded agency primarily providing in-home services to people with disabilities must also provide voter registration services there.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

#### Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 20      Nay 0

#### Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 28      Nay 0